Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /057 W

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CONFIDENTIAL KABUL 5531

E. O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PGOV, AF SUBJECT: MINISTER OF STATE SEES POLITICAL MOVEMENT IN NEAR FUTURE

- 1. DURING A COURTESY CALL BY THE AMBASSADOR AND DCM ON AUGUST 7, MINISTER OF STATE ABDUL MAJID STATED THAT "WITHIN ONE TO TWO MONTHS" THE GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN (GOA) WOULD BE PUBLISHING THE CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE NATIONAL REVOLUTION PARTY, THE SINGLE PARTY PERMITTED UNDER ARTICLE 40 OF THE NEW AFGHAN CONSTITUTION.
- 2. DR. MAJID EXPLAINED THAT ONCE THE PARTY IS ESTABLISHED, "A VICE PRESIDENT -- OR VICE PRESIDENTS" CAN THEN BE APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT FROM AMONG THE PARTY'S MEMBERS, AS REQUIRED BY THE CONSTITUTION (ARTICLE 78).
- 3. DR. MAJID ALSO HINTED THAT THERE MAY WELL BE AN EXTENSIVE REORGANIZATION IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL MINISTRIES OF THE GOA AT THE SAME TIME AS THE PARTY ANNOUNCEMENT. HE INDICATED THAT "A LOT OF WORK WAS GOING ON NOW." MAJID OPINED THAT THE NEXT TWO YEARS BEFORE THE PARLIAMENT MEETS WOULD BE "CRITICAL." HE CONFIDENTIAL

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CITED THE NEED FOR "HEALTH AND STAMINA" ON THE PART OF THE LEADERSHIP (QUALITIES WHICH SOME OBSERVERS RECENTLY HAVE FELT THAT DAOUD MIGHT BE LOSING).

4. COMMENT: ABDUL MAJID, HIMSELF, COULD WELL BECOME ONE OF THE PERSONS EVENTUALLY DESIGNATED AS VICE PRESIDENT. THE FORMATION OF THE PARTY AND APPOINTMENT OF VICE PRES-

IDENT(S) COULD PROVIDE POLITICALLY AWARE AFGHANS WITH SOME HOPE THAT THE PRESIDENT IS FINALLY ADDRESSING HIS ATTENTION TO THE POST-DAOUD ERA AND LESSEN THE CURRENT FEELING OF MALAISE ARISING OUT OF A LACK OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY. END COMMENT. ELIOT

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